

Waste Action Alert

*A publication of the RSC Sunset Caucus from co-chairs Kevin Brady (R-TX) and Jason Chaffetz (R-UT)
Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH), RSC Chairman*

Eliminate the Weatherization Assistance Program

December 7, 2011

Program or Item Targeted: Weatherization Assistance Program

Cost of Program or Item: Elimination of this program would save roughly \$2.1 billion over ten years.

Background on Program or Item to Be Sunseted: The Weatherization Assistance Program was created by Title IV of the Energy Conservation and Production Act of 1976. It was recently funded at \$5 billion in the Democrats' "stimulus" bill. It was originally created with the intention of improving energy efficiency in the homes of low-income families.

Why This Program Is Wasteful: This program not only is duplicative, but also has suffered from fraud and abuse in recent years. In December 2010, the Tennessee Comptroller General's office released a review of the program citing that weatherization contractors had, in nearly half of the cases studied, failed to implement the recommended measures to properly weatherize homes. The review also noted that funds for the program were used for other assistance measures that had nothing to do with weatherization.

The Office of the Inspector General at the Department of Energy also conducted a review of this program concluding that weatherization work on homes was poorly administered and led to potentially harmful effects for home inhabitants. The State of Delaware actually [suspended their weatherization program](#) due to "fraud and mismanagement."

What is more, other federal programs, such as the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), are already in place to assist low-income households in managing energy costs.

MEMBER ACTION ITEM: Rep. Chuck Fleischmann has introduced H.R. 3441, the Stop Green Initiative Abuse Act. This legislation would eliminate the Weatherization Assistance Program. Members are encouraged to cosponsor this legislation by contacting Jordan Spencer at Jordan.Spencer@mail.house.gov.

If you would like to participate in eliminating wasteful programs with the RSC Sunset Caucus, please e-mail Rick.Eberstadt@mail.house.gov.

Note: Not every item featured in the Waste Action Alerts is necessarily endorsed by the RSC. These Alerts highlight the individual initiatives of members of the RSC Sunset Caucus.

*"The RSC Sunset Caucus uncovers government waste and seeks to eliminate it,
working to sunset programs that taxpayers shouldn't be paying for."*

